SPANISH ARCHITECTURE.

DOORWAY, VALLADOLID.

CARVED ORNAMENT, TOLEDO.

ILLUSTRATIONS OF SPANISH ARCHITECTURE.

Annexed we give two illustrations of Spanish art. The first is the Entrance to a Palace in the town of Valladolid. There are many of these Roman-looking arched doorways in the northern towns of Spain, in Segovia especially. The arch stones are of great length.

The second is a portion of ornament from the interior of the church called "El Transito," Toledo, formerly a synagogue, built in a mixture of the Gothic, Moorish, and Hebrew styles, at the beginning of the fourteenth century.

The Architectural Exhibition.—It is found difficult to obtain a gallery or room for exhibition, in consequence of the great demand for such places this year, in expectation of the coming men. It is to be hoped, however, that this difficulty will be removed. The non-members of the Architectural Association, who have agreed to act upon the committee are, Messrs. Allom, Ashpitel, Billings, Christian, Fergusson, Godwin, Lamb, and Scott.

LIVING IN FLATS.

Having had experience, while residing in France, of the comfort, convenience, and economy of living in apartments, or chambers, or a flat, I now take the liberty of addressing you, to inquire why we should not enjoy the same advantages here. What is it that sends the greater part of the London tradesmen through the Bankruptcy Court? The rent of their premises. A tradesman in Regent-street, for instance, is obliged, in taking a shop, to take a large house with it, of which, in case of a dull season, he cannot let the apartments: he, therefore, has a double loss, not only by doing less business, but by having all the unnecessary rent, rates, &c. to pay, from not being able to let that part of the house which abroad he would not have been obliged to take.

Now, had Regent-street been built with one line of handsome shops, with entresols for the tradesman's family if required, and been connected or not with the shop, the streets running parallel with Regent-street built of a class so as to have had the entrances to the upper part of the Regent-street houses in them, and have had kitchens and all necessary offices on each floor, so that they might have been as distinct from the shops and from each story as separate houses,—both landlords and tenants would have benefited by it.

Now for the advantage of living on a flat. You only require one half the number of servants, there being no running up and down stairs to answer the street-door, the entrance-door being invariably against the kitchen-door, generally having the kitchen-door on one side, and the dining-room on the other, so that the servant can answer the door while not losing sight of her cooking. The economy in fires, an invalid being able also to go from his or her bed-room into the adjoining room, when, had they to go up or down stairs, they would not be able to do so, and a hundred other conveniences I have not time or space to mention.

Now, again, as to Model Lodging-houses, and also as to a suggestion to make a street of them in the new street from the end of Farringdon-street. I say, why not make a line of shops which would repay for the outlay, and over them build your model lodging-houses? Again, as to the improvements in the City, viz. Watling-street. Why not build, as in Paris, houses right through from street to street, the ground and first-floor warehouses, the second-floor apartments for the managing men, the third for superior clerks, fourth inferior ones, fifth for your porters and labourers, with apartments fitted up as in the model lodging-houses: you would then have much less complaint about the integrity of your men, as I am sure there is no greater incentive to vice than uncomfortable dwellings. Were the houses built more in the above style in the City, I am sure they would be much more valuable.

G. C.

*** This subject has been treated of at some length, our readers will remember, in previous volumes of our journal, but as yet nothing practical has been done. At one time we had the names of more than twenty persons anxious to co-operate in obtaining such dwellings. As a matter of course these would require to be fire-proof.

THE STRENGTH OF THE EXHIBITION BUILDING.

INSTITUTION OF CIVIL ENGINEERS.

On the 21st Jan. this subject was discussed at the Institution of Engineers.

On the one side it was contended, that the present Building was not in accordance with the conditions published by the Royal Commissioners; that from its form the wind would have a most injurious effect on it, and therefore, that instead of testing each girder singly, as had been done, the whole roof should have been subjected to an ordeal. The snugs for receiving the ends of the girders were considered as being too weak, and liable to fracture. The foundation of concrete under each column was considered insufficient, and not in accordance with the original design. The columns of such slender dimensions as eight inches diameter, and varying from one inch and an eighth down to half-an-inch in thickness, and each composed of seven parts, must be unstable when carried to such heights as sixty-four feet.

The girders of the galleries, when under the action of the multitudes of persons all in one direction, would acquire an undulating motion, which would fracture them. It had been stated by the Royal Commissioners that a building would be provided, free of rent and fire-proof: the latter condition was certainly not fulfilled, and if the building remained uninsured, each exhibiter would be under the necessity of providing for the safety of his own goods, and thus be subjected to a greater expense than the ordinary rent of a really fire-proof building.

On the other side it was contended, that an examination in detail of all the parts of the structure demonstrated the fallacy of the objections which had been made. Every part had been attentively considered, and had been subjected to careful and minute experiment. The concrete foundation had been tested to the extent of seven tons per square foot with-

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